

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for controlling the volume output of a first device (22), said device being operable to communicate with a second device (16) over a network link, the method comprising the second device sending a message (42) to the first device which receives said message, accesses a stored policy (50) and adjusts said output in dependence on the stored policy.
2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the policy (50) contains criteria which includes the time of day to affect said adjustment.
3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or ~~claim 2~~, wherein the policy (50) contains criteria which includes the number of received messages in a predetermined time interval to affect said adjustment.
4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~claims 1,2 or 3~~ claim 1, wherein the policy (50) contains criteria which includes a threshold against which the current output volume is compared to affect said adjustment.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims~~
~~1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein following adjustment the output level is determined and included in an acknowledgement message (70) sent by the first device to the second device.

6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~
~~claim~~ claim 1, wherein the stored policy criteria are user definable.

7. (original) A system for controlling the volume output of a first device (22,80), said device being operable to communicate with a second device (16,82) over a network link, the second device having communication means (16a) for sending a message to the first device, the first device comprising communication means (30) for receiving the message, and processing means (34) for accessing a stored policy (38,50) and for controlling said output in dependence on the stored policy.

8. (original) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second device further comprise indicating means (28) for indicating to a user acknowledgement of transmitted and received messages.

9. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 7—or ~~claim 8~~, wherein the communication means operate according to a selected one of ZigBee, Bluetooth or IEEE802.11 wireless radio protocols.

10. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 7—or ~~claim 8~~, wherein the communication means operate according to a wired protocol.

11. (currently amended) A device (22,80) for use with the system of ~~claims 7 to 10~~claim 7, said device comprising communication means (30) for receiving a message, means for accessing a stored policy (38,50) and processing means for controlling volume output in dependence on the stored policy.

12. (currently amended) Program code (35) on a carrier which when executed by processing means of a first device causes said first device to perform the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1.